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Roaring Penguin Software Inc  
17 Grenfell Crescent, Suite 209C  
Nepean, Ontario  
K2G 0G3 CANADA  
Tel. 613 231-6599

March 16, 2004

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Technology Center 2100

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia  
22313-1450 USA

Dear Sir,

It has come to my attention that Patent Application number 20020016818 should be invalidated because of prior art.

The invention in question concerns a device that removes attachments from e-mail messages and replaces them with a URL.

The MHonArc project (<http://www.mhonarc.org/>) has done exactly this since 1996. In addition, virtually all existing WebMail systems such as Hotmail, Yahoo and Squirrelmail do the same thing.

Specifically, the MHonArc documentation at <http://www.oac.uci.edu/indiv/ehood/MHonArc/doc/app-mimeconf.html> states:

"All image, audio, and video types are saved to an external file with a link to the file created in the HTML."

In addition, the program "stripmime" from November, 1999 performed the exact same task. As a reference, please see <http://lists.fsck.com/lists/rt-users/9911/msg00015.html> in which David C. Troy writes:

"I wrote a program called "stripmime" which uses the MIME::Tools package to decode MIME stuff and then forward the text components, with http links to the decoded MIME components, to RT."

Regards,

David F. Skoll  
President